

Water Quality Impacts

The environmental document should include summaries of analyses and consultations with the State and/or local agency responsible for water quality. Coordination with the EPA under the Federal Clean Water Act may also provide assistance in this area. The discussion should describe the ambient conditions of impacted streams and water bodies. The document should identify the potential impacts of each alternative and proposed mitigation measures. Under normal circumstances, existing data may be used to describe ambient conditions. The inclusion of water quality data spanning several years is encouraged to reflect trends.

The environmental document should also identify any locations where roadway runoff or other non-point source pollution may adversely impact sensitive water resources such as water supply reservoirs, ground water recharge areas, and high quality streams. The study should identify the potential impacts of each alternative and proposed mitigation measures.

Where an area designated as principal or sole-source aquifer under Section 1414(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act may be impacted by a proposed project, early coordination with the EPA will assist in identifying potential impacts. The EPA will furnish information on whether any of the alternatives affect the aquifer. This coordination should also identify any potential impacts to the critical aquifer protection area (CAPA), if designated, within affected sole-source aquifers. If none of the alternatives affect the aquifer, the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act are satisfied. If an alternative is selected which affects the aquifer, a design must be developed to assure, to the satisfaction of the EPA, that it will not contaminate the aquifer. The document should detail coordination with the EPA and identify its position on the impacts of the various alternatives. It should also show that the EPA's concerns concerning the preferred alternative have been resolved.

Currently, in Indiana, only the [St. Joseph Aquifer](#) has the designation of "sole source aquifer" (SSA). A "Detailed Ground Water Impact Assessment" (DGWIA) will need to be approved by the EPA if a project has the potential to adversely affect the quality of the ground water. For some projects, a "Sole Sources Aquifer Screening" may be all that is required by the EPA to prove that a particular project of lesser scope does not have the potential to adversely impact the quality of the SSA. If the SSA screening does not prove to be adequate for the EPA, then a fully developed DGWIA will be required. The EPA should be consulted to determine which level of documentation should be prepared when a project is located over the St. Joseph Aquifer.

Wellhead protection areas were authorized by the 1986 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act. Each State has developed a State wellhead protection program approved by EPA. When a proposed project encroaches on a wellhead protection area, the document should identify the delineated wellhead protection area (WHPA). Potential impacts of each alternative and proposed mitigation measures should be evaluated. Coordination with the Indiana Department of Environmental Management will aid in identifying the areas, impacts and mitigation. If the preferred alternative impacts these areas, the document should detail compliance with management requirements of the local wellhead protection program developed by the community Public Water System.